

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 00426 231221Z
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-02 ACDA-07 L-03 /056 W
-----231223Z 015922 /12

R 231130Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASH DC 7124
SECDEF WASH DC//ISA;DSAA//
INFO DA WASH DC
USCINCEUR//ECJ4/7-SAME//

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0426

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, KU
SUBJECT: PRICE AND AVAILABILITY ON M163 VULCAN SYSTEM

REF: (A) KUWAIT 5856 DTG 191406Z DEC 76 (NOTAL),
(B) KUWAIT 5690 DTG 081431Z DEC 76, (C) SECSTATE 140456
DTG 170430Z JUN 74 (NOTAL)

1. CHUSLOK HAS RECEIVED AN UNOFFICIAL GOK REQUEST FROM COL ABDUL AZIZ AL-SAYEGH (KUWAIT ARMED FORCES ACOFS FOR MATERIEL PROCUREMENT) FOR PRICE AND AVAILABILITY DATA ON 85 REPEAT 85 VULCAN SELF-PROPELLED (SP) AIR DEFENSE GUNS. WHEN QUERIED AS TO SUPPORTING EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING, COL AL-SAYEGH INDICATED THAT HE WAS NOT SURE, BUT BELIEVED THE GOK IS INTERESTED IN A "COMPLETE PACKAGE".

2. ALTHOUGH THIS REQUEST WAS NOT RECEIVED OFFICIALLY IN WRITING FROM MOD, PAST EXPERIENCE INDICATES THAT WHEN COL AL-SAYEGH HAS MADE SIMILAR REQUESTS, THEY HAVE HAD GOK APPROVAL.

3. RECOMMEND THAT USG APPROVE IN PRINCIPLE THE SALE OF THE VULCAN SYSTEM TO THE GOK FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 00426 231221Z

A. THE VULCAN IS PRIMARILY A DEFENSIVE WEAPON SYSTEM WHICH COULD NOT REASONABLY BE SEEN TO BE PROVOCATIVE TO OTHER STATES IN THE GULF REGION.
B. THE GOK HAS A REQUIREMENT FOR A SHORT-RANGE GUN OR MISSILE SYSTEM TO COMPLEMENT THE IHAWK IF IT IS EVER TO HAVE A VIABLE AIR DEFENSE. THIS WAS RECOMMENDED BY A DEFENSE SURVEY CONDUCTED BY A U.S. MILITARY TEAM IN 1972. THUS, THE

KUWAITI MILITARY HAS BEEN AWARE OF THIS NEED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF ITS EFFORT TO BUILD AN AIR DEFENSE AND HAS BEEN LOOKING INTO THE PURCHASE OF A SOVIET ANTI-AIRCRAFT SYSTEM (ZSU-23-4).

C. FOLLOWING AMBASSADOR'S EXPRESSION OF CONCERN TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE (REF B), IT APPEARS THAT GOK HAS COME TO CONCLUSION THAT, FOR SECURITY REASONS, IT SHOULD NOT PURCHASE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS WHICH CANNOT BE INTEGRATED (BECAUSE OF TECHNICAL SECURITY) WITH THE IHAWK SYSTEM. AS A RESULT, GOK MUST EITHER TURN TO USG FOR A LOW LEVEL ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPON OR FIND ANOTHER SOURCE THAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO USG.

4. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE COPY OF REF C, WE UNDERSTAND THAT IT INDICATED PREVIOUS APPROVAL BY STATE FOR RELEASE OF AN OFFER OF THE VULCAN TO THE GOK ON AN FMS BASIS IN JUNE 1974.

5. AMBASSADOR RECOMMENDS THAT GOK REQUEST TO PURCHASE THE VULCAN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM BE APPROVED. IF APPROVAL GRANTED, WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING, IN ADDITION TO THE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THE PRICE AND AVAILABILITY OF THE VULCAN GUN, AN ESTIMATED PRICE FOR AN 85 GUN "COMPLETE PACKAGE", SO THAT WE COULD HAVE SOME IDEA OF ORDER OF MAGNITUDE OF COST FOR THIS SYSTEM. REALIZE EXTREME DIFFICULTY OF ATTEMPTING TO PROVIDE PRICING INFO ON A "COMPLETE PACKAGE" BECAUSE OF THE MANY UNKNOWNNS; THEREFORE, REQUEST THAT SUCH EFFORT NOT UNNECESSARILY DELAY THE RESPONSE TO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KUWAIT 00426 231221Z

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF SALE OF VULCAN TO KUWAIT.
SUTHERLAND

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KUWAIT00426
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770024-0768
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770126/aaaaawud.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 74b6b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 KUWAIT 5856, 77 KUWAIT 5690, 77 STATE 140456
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3527240
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRICE AND AVAILABILITY ON M163 VULCAN SYSTEM
TAGS: MASS, KU
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/74b6b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009